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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1428TH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 12 August 1993, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea)

- Question of New Caledonia (continued)

- Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

- Activities of those foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa (continued)

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- Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (continued)

- Closing of the Special Committee meetings in 1993

The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

QUESTION OF NEW CALEDONIA (A/AC.109/1170, A/AC.109/L.1809) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: Members have before them a draft resolution sponsored by Fiji and Papua New Guinea, contained in document A/AC.109/L.1809, which was circulated yesterday morning.

I call on the representative of Fiji to introduce the draft resolution.

Mr. SENILOLI (Fiji): On behalf of the sponsors, Papua New Guinea and Fiji, I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1809 on the question of New Caledonia, which reaffirms the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and recalls General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December of the same year. I am pleased to note that progress is being made in New Caledonia to create the necessary conditions and to prepare its people to be able to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination.

(Mr. Seniloli, Fiji)

The Committee to Monitor the Matignon Accords met in Paris early in February to review the progress of the Accords. It concluded that overall progress had been made during the period under review.

Let me remind the Committee that after the events of 1988 three main problems needed to be addressed: healing the wounds and building up the confidence of the opposing parties; progressively reducing the economic and social imbalance; and, lastly, alleviating the problems related to urban segregation, such as unemployment and alcohol and drug abuse among the young.

The construction of the Jean-Marie Tjibaou Cultural Centre was a major commitment by the administering Power in reinforcing the work being done on confidence-building. In February 1993 the administering Power reiterated its commitment to provide funds for education and the implementation of the contract on development in the three provinces. The contract represents a huge outlay of funds for the period 1993 to 1997. This is being done to ensure a more balanced economic and social development in the two disadvantaged provinces. In fact, approximately 75 per cent of the allocated amount will be spent on various development projects in the Northern Province and the Islands Province, while 25 per cent will be allocated to the economically superior Southern Province. In this new contract more emphasis is being placed on social development, housing, initial training, development of the infrastructure and economic development.

Though overall progress in the implementation of the Matignon Agreements has been made, more effort is required to adapt the educational system to the needs of the Kanaks and to build more schools. Ways and means have to be found to resolve difficulties encountered on the land issue and to give reassurance that the act of self-determination will be carried out according

(Mr. Seniloli, Fiji)

to the letter and spirit of the Matignon Agreements, which are based on the principle that it is the people of New Caledonia who will decide what their destiny is to be.

During April the Prime Minister of Vanuatu and the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea visited the Territory. In July a delegation of three Ministers from the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Nauru also visited New Caledonia. Apart from these ministerial visits, which show the concern of the South Pacific States and their interest in New Caledonia's development, other linkages are also being forged, and these augur well for future regional cooperation. New Caledonia was also included in the agenda of the Forum which met in Nauru this week, and I wish to report that the Forum endorses the draft resolution.

We were pleased to see that a delegation from New Caledonia participated in the Pacific Regional Seminar on decolonization in Port Moresby from 8 to 10 June, where they articulated their specific concerns and also described how their development was progressing.

In conclusion, we wish to thank the administering Power for its cooperation and its contribution to the work of the Committee and the drafting of the resolution.

On behalf of the sponsors, Papua New Guinea and Fiji, I recommend, since there is real progress in the social, economic and political development of New Caledonia, that the Committee adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to inform the Committee that I have just received the Forum communiqué on New Caledonia, which will be made available to members in due course in an aide mémoire.

Mr. MAINO (Papua New Guinea): I wish to place on record my delegation's full support for and endorsement of the statement made by the representative of Fiji in introducing the draft resolution on the question of New Caledonia.

The draft text is an agreed text that was produced as a result of positive and meaningful consultations with the affected parties, including Governments of member States of the South Pacific Forum, the FLNKS and the administering Power concerned. I appeal for members' cooperation in the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

The CHAIRMAN: May I take it that the Committee is prepared to adopt the draft resolution without a vote?

Draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1809 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has thus concluded its consideration of this item.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (A/AC.109/L.1805-L.1806; E/1993/98; A/48/224 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2)

ACTIVITIES OF THOSE FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH IMPEDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (A/AC.109/1153, 1155-1158, 1161; A/AC.109/L.1807) (continued)

MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS BY COLONIAL POWERS IN TERRITORIES UNDER THEIR ADMINISTRATION WHICH MIGHT BE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (A/AC.109/1144, 1149, 1151; A/AC.109/L.1808) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to draw members' attention to the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council on his consultations with the Chairman of the Special Committee, as well as my report thereon, contained in documents A/AC.109/L.1805 and E/1993/98.

(The Chairman)

I also wish to draw members' attention to draft resolutions A/AC.109/L.1806 and L.1807 and draft decision A/AC.109/L.1808, sponsored by Cuba and the United Republic of Tanzania, which were distributed yesterday morning.

I now call on the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to introduce draft resolutions A/AC.109/L.1806 and L.1807 and draft decision L.1808.

Mr. MONGELLA (United Republic of Tanzania): On behalf of the sponsors of draft resolutions A/AC.109/L.1306 and L.1807 and draft decision L.1808, Cuba and the United Republic of Tanzania, I wish to state that the spirit that guided the deliberations on, and the final adoption of, these drafts was the desire to implement the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples - resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 - and resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, which endorsed the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

(Mr. Mongella, United Republic of Tanzania)

Though the two draft resolutions and the draft decision may appear to be three different texts, they all address the same problem, that of eradicating colonialism in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1806 focuses on the activities of specialized agencies in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in southern Africa. Its thrust is to call upon the specialized agencies to intensify their contribution to the struggle of the people to eliminate the vestiges of colonialism and the remaining vestiges of apartheid in South Africa.

In this draft resolution, efforts have been made to take note of the activities of regional organizations that have seized the opportunity to become involved in that process; the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, for instance, has been commended for its work. The draft resolution goes even further, calling on other organizations of the United Nations system to formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to submit the proposals as a matter of priority to their governing and legislative organs.

The draft resolution contributes significantly to the ongoing efforts to enhance the capabilities of the peoples in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in southern Africa.

Draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1807 addresses the question of "Activities of those foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa."

(Mr. Mongella, United Republic of Tanzania)

This draft resolution addresses those foreign economic activities which impede the implementation of the Declaration, as its title states. The draft resolution also calls on the governing authorities to enhance the capacities of the peoples in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so that they can better manage and participate in the economic activities of their own countries. It also states that when economic activities are undertaken in the colonial Territories, the interests of the peoples in those Territories should be taken into consideration.

Draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1807 also addresses the question of South Africa, in the same spirit. It states that those activities that impede the process of self-determination of the peoples of South Africa should be discouraged, and, therefore, calls upon all States to maintain the existing measures against the apartheid regime as specified in the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa.

The draft resolution also addresses the question of the mass media's participation in this struggle. It calls for greater participation by the mass media and individuals with a view to encouraging the efforts of the people for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Draft decision A/AC.109/L.1808 addresses the question of "Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration". Essentially, it relates to several key issues. First, it calls on the administering Powers concerned not to use these Non-Self-Governing Territories as springboards for aggressive activities from the existing military establishments in those Territories. Secondly, it calls

(Mr. Mongella, United Republic of Tanzania)

for a process whereby these military activities could begin to be transformed for civilian use. Thirdly, it addresses the question of South Africa, calling for the cessation of the continued military and intelligence collaboration between South Africa and certain countries, which constitutes a violation of the military embargo imposed against South Africa by the Security Council.

The two draft resolutions and the draft decision have been considered in a very balanced manner, taking into view the developments currently taking place within these Non-Self-Governing Territories, within South Africa and within the international community at large. The co-sponsors expect them to be adopted by consensus. Through you, Mr. Chairman, I am appealing to the members of the Committee of 24 to adopt the draft resolutions and the draft decision by consensus.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1806.

Draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1806 was adopted by 17 votes to 2, with no abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1807.

Draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1807 was adopted by 16 votes to 2, with 1 abstention.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to draw members' attention to the new title of the agenda item relating to military activities and arrangements, which is to be shortened to read: "Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration".

If there are no comments, I shall take it that members are in agreement with the change in the title.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take action on draft decision A/AC.109/L.1808.

Draft decision A/AC.109/L.1808 was adopted by 16 votes to 2, with 1 abstention.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of the Russian Federation, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote after the voting.

Mr. DZAKHAEV (Russian Federation) (interpretation from Russian): Over the last few years the Russian delegation has constantly drawn attention in the Special Committee to the need for the Committee's work to be brought into line with the current decolonization tasks of the United Nations and with the mandate given it by the General Assembly. The Russian delegation, both in the Committee of 24 and in the Fourth Committee, has made great efforts, together with other interested delegations to bring about the adoption of agreed decisions aimed at making the fullest use of the United Nations potential to advance the interests of the people of Non-Self-Governing

(Mr. Dzakhaev, Russian Federation)

Territories and at achieving the speedy elimination of the remnants of colonialism.

Unfortunately, our delegation must once again note that the Committee continues the practice of considering questions that go beyond its mandate - in particular, the anti-apartheid theme. Furthermore, the draft resolutions and decisions (A/AC.109/L.1806, A/AC.109/L.1807 and A/AC.109/L.1808) on the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization by the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and on economic and military activities in Non-Self-Governing Territories retain wording relating to the question of apartheid in South Africa. For these reasons, the Russian delegation voted against those draft resolutions and the draft decision.

The Russian delegation would also like to inform members that, given the situation in the Special Committee on decolonization, which has not made it possible for the Committee to carry out its tasks effectively, Russia is now considering halting its participation in the Committee's work. Our subsequent relations with the members of this United Nations body will be determined in the light of developments in its situation and will depend on the extent to which its activities are aimed at constructive execution of its mandate, in line with the realities of today's world.

Our delegation reaffirms the Russian Federation's adherence to and support for the exercise by the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories of their inalienable right to self-determination on the basis of their freely expressed will, and we reiterate our readiness to cooperate with the world community in this cause.

(Mr. Dzakhaev, Russian Federation)

The Russian delegation expresses the hope that the United Nations organs dealing with the question of decolonization, and in particular the Committee of 24, will develop a desire to cooperate constructively and reach agreed decisions aimed at ensuring their primary objective - the speedy elimination of all vestiges of colonialism.

The CHAIRMAN: I take particular note of the comments of the representative of the Russian Federation about his Government's consideration of its continued participation in the work of the Committee. However, the Chair would like to encourage the Government of the Russian Federation to continue its participation and cooperation with the Committee in the light of its historical input into the decolonization process in the world.

If the Government of the Russian Federation desires to leave - which is its sovereign right - I hope that consultations will be held in its regional Group so that one of the Group's members can replace it.

The Committee has concluded consideration of all substantive items on its agenda.

CLOSING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN 1993

The CHAIRMAN: As the work of the Committee draws to a close for 1993, I should like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your efforts throughout the year. This has indeed been a momentous time for the Committee and I believe that we can say that we have made great efforts to achieve the goal of decolonization for the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Looking back over our possible accomplishments, we can be justifiably proud to note that we have intensified our dialogue with the representatives of the peoples of the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. We have encouraged and facilitated their participation in the work of the Committee,

(The Chairman)

and we have adopted constructive measures to facilitate their participation. We have continued - and in many instances the Committee has initiated - consultations with the regional organizations concerned. Through these measures we have strengthened and harmonized views on how best to assist the peoples of the remaining Territories. We have invited these organizations to increase their assistance to those Territories within a regional context and to facilitate their integration into their respective regions.

On behalf of the Committee and its members, I have conducted extensive consultations with all the administering Powers concerning the Non-Self-Governing Territories. I have particularly stressed the importance of their participation in the work of the Committee and the fact that the absence of any administering Power from the Committee during the consideration of a Territory under its administration deprives the Committee of an exchange of views and a sharing of important information. The inputs of administering Powers would also have a bearing on the formulation of conclusions and recommendations on the Territories concerned.

I have further emphasized the vital importance that we attach to the provision of information as called for under Article 73 e of the Charter, and, in the light of the short time remaining before the end of the Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, I have underscored the importance that the Committee attaches to first-hand information, which can only be obtained by visiting missions. Once again, the Government of New Zealand, as the administering Power, has invited the Committee to send a visiting mission to Tokelau, and we thank it for its continued cooperation. This will be the fourth visiting mission to that Territory. Unfortunately, no invitations from the other administering Powers have been forthcoming. I should like to take this opportunity to reiterate to the administering Powers our call upon them

(The Chairman)

to facilitate the work of the Committee by extending invitations for visiting missions to Territories under their administration.

Another accomplishment during the period under review was the holding of the successful seminar in Port Moresby, which was attended by nearly half the members of the Committee. That seminar was of vital importance both for the Committee and the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It enabled us to learn at first hand about the conditions pertaining in those Territories in the Pacific and the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants. It afforded many Committee members an opportunity to learn for themselves the problems facing the small island Territories in the Pacific and to glean insights from the representatives of those Territories, as well as from distinguished personalities and representatives of non-governmental organizations and regional organizations who have a wealth of experience in the area. The lessons learned from this valuable and timely seminar have already begun to influence our work, as evidenced by the lengthy consideration that we have devoted in recent weeks to items on the Committee's agenda.

Motivated by the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and bearing in mind its unique responsibility for ensuring the successful attainment of the goals of the Decade, the Committee has made a determined effort this year to update and streamline its work in order to respond more effectively to the tasks entrusted to it. To that end, the Committee established an open-ended working group at the beginning of the year. The working group held several meetings, during the course of which it conducted a thorough review of a number of issues and recommendations which have guided the Committee in carrying out its mandate.

(The Chairman)

Since the resumption of work during the summer session we have conducted long and arduous consultations. The animated discussions held during the course of these consultations are indeed a sign of the vitality with which the Committee is approaching its tasks. The outcome of those consultations will certainly fall far short of the expectations of a number of member States. Notwithstanding the many difficulties which confront the Committee, it should be noted that we have made a determined effort this year to amend the language of many of its resolutions. Since the Committee has always tried to work in a spirit of consensus, I sincerely hope that that spirit will continue to prevail as our resolutions go forward to other bodies for their consideration before the forty-eighth session.

While it is true that significant progress has been achieved in the search for a broad consensus on some of the resolutions, it must be admitted that more still remains to be done. As I have consistently advocated, the revitalization of our Committee should be a continuing process. I remain fully confident that in the long run our continuing efforts will yield the appropriate results.

As we are about to conclude our work, I should like to express my sincere gratitude to all the members of the Committee. Your cooperation and commitment were particularly important in carrying out our common responsibilities. It was indeed an honour for me to preside over our deliberations.

I am indeed thankful to you all, and in particular to Ambassador Hidalgo Basulto of Cuba, Mr. Andrew Bangali of Sierra Leone and Mr. Alexander Slaby of the Czech Republic, the Vice-Chairmen, for their active participation in the work of the Committee. I should like to take this

(The Chairman)

opportunity to thank our Rapporteur, Mr. Farouk Al-Attar of the Syrian Arab Republic for his contribution. My thanks also go to Ambassador Amor Ardhaoui of Tunisia and Mr. Hossein Lofti Hormozabadi of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the excellent work they have performed as, respectively, Chairman and Rapporteur of our Subcommittee.

(The Chairman)

I should like to express the Committee's appreciation for the cooperation of the administering Powers, particularly those that have participated in the work of the Committee, the resumption of the visiting missions, and the restoration of a climate of confidence and cooperation.

I am also grateful to the specialized agencies that have provided information to the Committee, and I appeal to those that have not done so to cooperate with the Committee, as required by General Assembly resolutions.

On behalf of the Committee, I should like to express my profound gratitude to the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories who have travelled a long way to apprise the Committee of the situation in their respective Territories. My thanks go also to the petitioners who have provided us with much-needed and most valuable information.

Last but not least, I should like to convey the gratitude of the Committee to the staff of the Secretariat - interpreters, translators, members of the secretariat of the Special Committee, and all those who have worked behind the scene to assist us.

I declare the 1993 session of the Special Committee concluded.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.